

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 4400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CY, PFOR, PGOV

SUBJ: DENKTASH COMMENTS ON MAKARIOS' SPEECH

REF: A. FBIS TA 081205Z B. TA 081255Z C. TA 081345Z

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 8 COMMENTING ON MAKARIOS' RETURN AND SPEECH (PARTIAL COVERAGE FBIS REFS), DENKTASH SOUNDED RELATIVELY RESTRAINED NOTE DURING PREPARED TEXT, THEN IN QUESTION PERIOD WAS SOMEWHAT HARSHER ON GREEK CYPRIOT POSITION AND BLUNTER IN APPRAISAL OF PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PREPARED STATEMENT, DENKTASH SAID THAT: A) MAKARIOS WILL NOT FIND TURKISH CYPRIOTS OPPOSING HIM OVER PEACE BUT
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"MAKARIOS MUST ACCEPT AND SEE CERTAIN REALITIES"; B) IT

HAD BEEN MAKARIOS HIMSELF WHO HAD ABROGATED CYPRUS CONSTITUTION FOR 11 YEARS; C) TURKEY HAD MERELY EXERCISED RIGHT OF ARMED INTERVENTION TO RESTORE CONSTITUTION; D) TURK CYPRIOTS ARE PREPARED TO REESTABLISH INDEPENDENT CYPRUS "UNDER EQUAL CONDITIONS" BUT "CANNOT ACCEPT HAVING CONTITIONS DICTATED TO US BY MAKARIOS POSING AS HEAD OF STATE;" E) IF MAKARIOS' SPEECH REPRESENTED POLICY AGREED UPON IN ATHENS, THEN "POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING NETOTIATIONS VERY REMOTE", ALTHOUGH "WE DO NOT WANT TO CLOSE DOOR TO NEGOTIATIONS; F) AND IF AGREEMENT IS TO BE REACHED, IT MUST BE REACHED SOON -- OTHERWISE TURK CYPRIOTS WOULD "CONTINUE TO PROGRESS ON PATH OF IMPROVING SITUATION OF COMMUNITY THROUGH NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE AND ECONOMIC EFFORTS IN REGION".

3. IN QUESTION PERIOD DENKTASH REITERATED TURK POSITION THAT POSSIBILITY CANTONAL SYSTEM NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE "GREEK CYPRIOTS THEMSELVES HAVE PROVEN THAT THESE DO NOT SAFEGUARD SECURITY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY ... BY MASSACRING TURKISH CYPRIOTS LIVING IN SUCH CANTONS." ONLY BI-REGIONAL FEDERATED SYSTEM, WITH TURKS IN MAJORITY IN TURK CYPRIOT REGION, ACCEPTABLE. TURK CYPRIOTS PREPARED NEGOTIATE ON AUTHORITY OF FEDERAL STATE AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVIDINGLINE. IN EVENT POLITICAL TALKS TOTALLY UNFRUITFUL, DUE MAKARIOS' POLICY LINE HUMANITARIAN ISSUES COULD STILL BE DISCUSSED. DENKTASH ALSO POINTED OUT THAT POSITION OF CLERIDES NOT YET CLARIFIED, AND ADDED THAT MAKARIOS WOULD HAVE MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO GREEK CYPRIOT CAUSE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IF HE HAD ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL FROM POLITICS AND RETURN TO CHURCH. MAKARIOS, HOWEVER, HAD MISSED THIS OPPORTUNITY.

4. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ABOUT SITUATION OF TURK-CYPRIOTS REFUGEES ON BRITISH SBA, DENKTASH TERMED BRITISH "INTRANSIGENT" ON REMOVAL TO NORTH. HE ADDED THAT EVENTUALLY BASES WOULD REVERT TO CYPRIOTS, WITH ONE GOING BY RIGHT TO TURK CYPRIOT SIDE. ON POSSIBLE US MILITARY AID CUTOFF, DENKTASH DECLARED THAT TURKEY'S POLICY WOULD NOT CHANGE. INDEED, IF THIS HAPPENED "THERE WOULD BE HARDENING IN POLICY BECAUSE CYPRUS ISSUE IS NATIONAL CAUSE."
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5. DENKTASH DISCOUNTED "BIG POWER" GUARANTEES, SAYING "WE DO NOT WANT AMERICA, OR RUSSIA OR ANY OTHER BIG POWER TO GET INVOLVED IN CYPRUS ... GRECO-TURKISH PROBLEM CAN BE SETTLED WITHIN CONTEXT OF GRECO-TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS".

6. ASKED TO CLARIFY ATTITUDE TOWARDS MAKARIOS AS PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS, DENKTASH REPLIED, "I RECOGNIZE HIM AS LEADER OF

GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY WHO HAS TAG OF "PRESIDENT" AS FAR AS INTERNATIONAL NOTION OF CYPRUS REPLUBIC EXISTS. BUT HE CANNOT DICTATE TO US AS PRESIDENT AND WE ACCEPT NO WORD OF HIM ASSUCH". HE, TOO, HAD TAG OF "VICE-PRESIDENT", BUT WHEN IT QUESTION OF "NEGOTIATING AND PEACE-MAKING, HE AND ARCHBISHOP HAD TO ACT AS LEADERS OF TWO EQUAL COMMUNITIES".

7. COMMENT: DENKTASH REMARKS, LIKE THOSE OF MAKARIOS PREVIOUS DAY, WERE RESTRAINED CONSIDERING CIRCUMSTANCES. BOTH REITERATED FAMILIAR HARD STANDS BUT WENT NO FURTHER THAN NECESSARY. INDEED, IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE EITHER MAKARIOS OR DENKTASH TAKING LESS ADAMANT LINES THAN THEY DID WITHOUT RISKING CRITICISM FROM SIZEABLE SEGMENT OF THEIR FOLLOWERS SEEKING MORE ANTAGONISTIC POSITION. DENKTASH'S STATEMENT ON EVE OF MAKARIOS' RETURN TO EFFECT THAT TURKS PLANNING NO MILITARY MOVES AND THAT DOOR TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS NOT NECESSARILY CLOSED BY MAKARIOS' RETURN ALSO INDICATIVE OF TURK-CYPRIOT DESIRE TO MINIMIZE EFFECT OF ELECTED PRESIDENT'S RETURN ON EFFORTS TOWARD FINDING SOLUTION -- PROVIDED GREEK CYPRIOTS "ACCEPT REALITIES". CRAWFORD

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